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March 5, 2003

US Patent and Trademark Office
Attention Examiner: Mr. ROGER L PANG

Re. US Application No. 09/994,455 (Art Unit: 3681)

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I apologize to the Examiner for a late response to the Examiner's letter, for I lost the copy of the reference (1) listed below and had to search and get it.

1. Requirement for Election:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 2003 regarding the Examiner's requirement for election of the above application. Please file a response including an election of the species as illustrated in Fig. 1 by the due date of January 7, 2003.

2. IDS

I enclose the copies of relevant references (1) - (5) listed below, which are cited in the present application No. 09/994,455. Reference (1) is a prior art to the present invention. References (2) - (5) are published as Japanese Patent Publications of my inventions, and 4 species in these publications (table below in this letter) are directed to the present invention.

<REFERENCE LIST>

(1) The copy of "Automotive Engineering/July 1997" (page 56-58) <page 1 of the present application>

(2) The copy of **JAPANESE PATENT PUBLICATION No. 2000-32 6739** <page 37 of the present application >

(3) The copy of English translation of the above reference (2)
<translated by Japanese Patent Office>

Note: The name of the inventor "HIRAIWA KAZUMI" in this reference (3) is mistaken. The correct name is "HIRAIWA KAZUYOSHI" as the inventor of the present application.

The both names are written "平岩 一美" in Japanese KANJI (Please see the inventor's name in the reference (2)), but "一美" can be pronounced as "KAZUMI" and "KAZUYOSHI". This caused Japanese Patent Office to misspell.

These are the same person, the inventor of the present application.

(4) The copy of **JAPANESE PATENT PUBLICATION No. 2001-1 -361** <page 37 of the present application >

(5) The copy of English translation of the above reference (4)
<translated by Japanese Patent Office>

Note: The name of the inventor "HIRAIWA KAZUMI" in this reference (5) is also mistaken. "HIRAIWA KAZUYOSHI" is right (Please see the inventor's name in the reference (4))

NOTE:

The correspondence between the present application and the references (2)-(5) are shown in the table below:

The present application	The references
FIG.1	FIGs.1 of the references (4) and (5)
FIG.2	FIGs.2 of the references (4) and (5)
FIG.3	FIGs.1 of the references (2) and (3)
FIG.4	FIGs.2 of the references (2) and (3)

Sincerely yours,

Kazuyoshi Hiraiwa

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